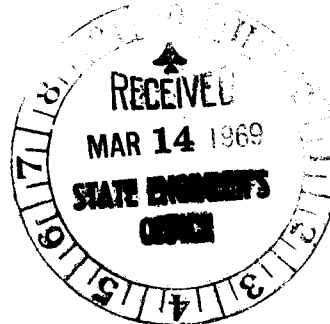


March 13, 1969



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Hubert C. Lambert, State Engineer

**FROM:** Gerald W. Stoker, Area Engineer

**SUBJECT:** Beryl-Enterprise Area, Dam Safety and Flood Threat

Further investigation of this area indicates that the estimates contained in the memorandum of March 7th concerning potential snow melt and run off into the two Enterprise reservoirs was low. The figures contained therein were based on the information gathered from a snow survey at the Little Grassy Snow Course (measurements taken on February 27, 1969) which is South and a little East of the Enterprise reservoirs. Because of the location of the above-mentioned snow course the measurements may not be representative of the area that drains into the reservoirs from the southwest. This southwest area, from all appearances and higher elevations, is heavier in snowpack and should contain a water content percentage similar to that at the Little Grassy Snow Course. If this assumption is correct, then the 29,000 acre feet forecast is low and we could have an amount at least 10% higher or approximately 32,000 acre feet. This increase would only compound the problem with the reservoirs and increase the potential flood threat.

A meeting was held at the Beryl Community Center on March 12, 1969, and all parties concerned with the past flooding of this area and in the future potential flood of Shoal Creek were invited to attend. The following federal, state, and county agencies were represented: Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service, State Road Commission, Division of State Land (Forestry), Division of Water Rights, and the Iron County Commissioners. There was in attendance approximately 100 people representing a good cross-section of those residing in the Beryl-Enterprise Area.

Mr. George Lawrence, Soil Conservation Service, reviewed the information gathered concerning past flooding in this area and the information that indicated a possible flood threat. He then stated that there were three alternate solutions to the problem; 1. Do nothing at all and hope that the normal runoff could be handled with existing facilities; 2. Repair the existing dikes or construct new dikes to help check the high water; 3. Construct a by-pass channel to transport the water around the farms that have been constructed across the natural drainage of Shoal Creek and correct any conditions in the natural channel that might adversely affect the flow.

It was indicated that it would be up to the local committee to decide which of the alternatives would be best for the local conditions. It was pointed out by Mr. Lawrence that no matter which alternative was decided upon, 100% protection was not economically feasible and that some damage was bound to be sustained. The Soil Conservation Service is willing to participate in the project providing approval can be obtained. The approval of the project is subject to several factors; namely, the project must be technically sound, economically feasible and in the best interest of the majority. Certainly the SCS would require sufficient time to evaluate the conditions before they would be able to recommend the commitment of federal funds. The SCS indicated that they had no money for engineering and no personnel available to do the technical work at the present time. They did acknowledge to those present that a preliminary survey on the existing dikes has been completed and that this data was available to the committee.

Keith Smith, Chairman of the Iron County Commissioners, indicated that they might participate with the loan of men and equipment but that the county did not have monies available at this time. The Division of State Highways indicated that they would cooperate, if possible, with the loan of equipment.

The Division of Water Rights was questioned on the availability of monies and technical assistance to aid in the flood protection project. This question was answered by stating that the State Engineer had neither money or personnel available for participation on the project but they would cooperate in clearing some of the technical obstacles so that the project could be completed before the high water commences. It was brought to the attention of the committee that if storage facilities and/or dikes were proposed to store 20 acre feet of water or more or if they were 10 feet or more in height that plans and specifications would be required by our office.

It was indicated that there were no federal funds from any sources represented at the meeting immediately available to implement either of the alternatives mentioned by Mr. Lawrence which require the expenditure of funds (dike construction and/or by-pass channel construction).

The local committee indicated that they were determined to do everything in their power to alleviate the present flood danger. They indicated that providing there were no serious objections, the committee would endeavor to have equipment which might be placed at their disposal, put to work repairing the existing dikes and to do some flood channel work.

Representatives from the Escalante Silver Mining Company were questioned on the feasibility of using the newly constructed conveyance canal as a flood water by-pass canal. They answered the question by saying that it was feasible and technically possible but they did not have the authority to express any official views on the proposed project.

The meeting adjourned with the committee's assurance that further study and initial action would be forthcoming.